



CITY OF DETROIT
LAW DEPARTMENT

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September 9, 2019

Katlyn Alapati
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 78101
411A Highland Ave
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

RE: Freedom of Information Act Request No. A19-06269, Dated July 29, 2019, Concerning City of Detroit Records Regarding Meal and Travel Expenses for the Employees of the Department of Neighborhoods

Dear Ms. Alapati:

This letter serves as the City of Detroit's response to the above-referenced matter. Your request was received at the City of Detroit Law Department Freedom of Information Act Section, via email, on July 29, 2019. Because your request was received by electronic transmission, pursuant to Section 5(1) of the Michigan Freedom of Information Act (the "Act"), MCL 15.235(1); it is deemed to have been received at the Law Department on the next business day, July 30, 2019. Thank you for your patience regarding this matter.

You request:

"All meal and travel expenses (whether paid for directly by the department or reimbursed to personnel) for employees of The Neighborhood (<http://theneighborhoods.org/>) department from 2015 to present, that include, but is not limited to:

- The expense amount
- Item/service paid for
- Vendor
- Personnel responsible for purchase
- Date of transaction
- Description of why the purchase was made"

Your request is denied pursuant to Section 5(5)(b) of the Act, MCL 15.235(5)(b). Based on information provided by City of Detroit Mayor's Office personnel, it is our understanding that the Department of Neighborhoods does not have a travel budget. As such, they do not possess any record which corresponds with the description of your request.

Please note, pursuant to Section 10 and 10a of the Act, MCL 15.240 and 15.240a, a person receiving a written denial of a request, or receiving a letter to submit the labor costs, may do one of the following:

- 1) Submit a written appeal to the head of the public body denying the request. Such appeal, if submitted, should specifically state the word "appeal" and identify the reason or reasons for reversal of the disclosure denial. MCL 15.240(1)(a) and 15.240a(1)(a); or



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- 2) Commence an action in the circuit court to compel the disclosure of the public records within 180 days after the public body's denial of the request, MCL 15.240(1)(b), or within 45 days after the public body's request for labor costs, MCL 15.240a(1)(b). If a court finds that the information withheld by a public body is not exempt from disclosure, or that the labor costs requested by the public body exceeds the amount permitted, the requesting party may receive the requested record and, at the discretion of the court, reasonable attorney fees and /or costs. MCL 15.240(6) and (7), and 15.240a(6) and (7).

When contacting our office regarding this request, please include the request number listed in the subject line above. **For your information, please note that a public** summary of the City of Detroit Freedom of Information Act procedures and guidelines are at www.detroitmi.gov and specifically at <https://detroitmi.gov/document/foia-procedures-and-guidelines> and <https://detroitmi.gov/how-do-i/request-document/foia-freedom-information-act-request>.

Very truly yours,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Amanda Rakos'.

Amanda Rakos
Assistant Corporation Counsel
Freedom of Information Act Section
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Email Address: rakosa@detroitmi.gov